

## Meeting Notes – ICC Grid Plan Workshop – Community Perspectives #2 – March 8<sup>th</sup>

### Participants

Participant list from chat was lost due to a technical malfunction. The participant list can be view by visiting the [ICC grid plan webpage](#), viewing the workshop recording and selecting either the chat log or the participant list available on the right hand side of the video.

#### 1. Facilitators - Introductions and schedule updates

#### 2. Jared Policicchio w/ City of Chicago – Presentation

Presentation provided background information on Chicago's planning and interaction with Commonwealth Edison. Discussed the city's efforts to develop sustainability and energy initiatives and a environmental sustainability working group called We Will Chicago - <https://wewillchicago.com/>

Discussed efforts by the city to perform additional planning activities including resiliency, transportation, and infrastructure.

Announced the release of a draft Climate Action Plan - <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/climate-action-plan/home/get-involved.html>

Discussed post-pandemic recovery funds and commitments to use renewable energy.

The city is interested in getting input from and working with stakeholder communities and organizations. Discussion of tiered rates for affordability, energy efficiency, and beneficial electrification.

#### 3. Mark Denzler – Illinois Manufacturer's Association

Discussed the importance of the grid to manufacturing companies and the value which those business provide to the state's economy. Discussed the combination of clean energy goals and the needs of customers to have affordable rates so that businesses can continue to grow and create jobs. Indicated that a reliable and resilient grid is foundational to the success of businesses and the economy. Equally important is to include equity and ensure that all communities benefit from improved grid reliability.

#### 4. Peter Schwartzman – Mayor of Galesburg

Galesburg has developed a new strategic plan to develop solar and have 50% of the city's needs met by local solar production by 2027 and boosting commitments to renewable energy. Schools and community buildings are part of the plan.

Mentioned agri-voltaics – growing plants and pollinators among solar PV array sites.

Sees the need for growth in energy storage. Discussed the need for power production to be accessible and affordable for all of Galesburg's communities and a desire for indoor urban agriculture supported by renewable energy.

Economic challenges coming out of the pandemic.

Discussed a fiber installation which will be underground and a possible opportunity for Ameren to put power lines underground as well.

#### 5. Hal Woods – Kids First Chicago

Education advocacy group focused on connecting families to the internet. Collaborate with other groups and government agencies. Made successful progress to get families online during the pandemic and support the needs of students with online education.

Can't have a smart grid economy without having families being connected to the internet.

Equity issues regarding internet access, education, and jobs and their interrelatedness. Online learning toolkit for parents.

#### 6. Group Discussion

Affirmation of the themes mentioned by the presenters.

The importance of reliability and resiliency.

Need to acknowledge the different needs of various communities including their economic and energy goals.

Need for the utilities to identify the key issues of families and communities; the need for a data driven solution.

Acknowledgement that internet and education equity is an additional consideration.

Discussion about the various types of benefits. Some more straightforward than others.

Statements indicating that additional work needs to be done to understand how to evaluate the various benefits.

The need to have communities and municipalities be part of the grid planning process.

Concern about the utilities duplicating internet infrastructure.

Support for additional collaborative efforts between communities and the utilities.

Desire to understand how representative the speakers are of other communities. Do they have similar needs? Desire to have the utility plans acknowledge and support community plans.

A proposal to have the workshop participants and stakeholders crowdsource the identification of data and sources of data which would help the identification of system wide issues and community needs as inputs into grid solutions.

Support for this idea and acknowledgement that this is a developing process.

Statement that an element of CEJA was to get communities to begin to come together and help define their future and identify the obstacles and challenges.

Discussion about the value of having community solar located near the community to support economic and jobs growth.